

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 00312 081417Z

53

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 PRS-01 INR-07 INRE-00

SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 /043 W

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O 081408Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5516

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GW, US

SUBJECT: SPIEGEL PIECE ON SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON SPD

REF: STATE 3283

FOR COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT FROM AMBASSADOR

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE FEDERAL PRESS OFFICE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT THE JAN. 5 "SPIEGEL" ARTICLE. USING THE POINTS CONTAINED IN YOUR TELEGRAM, WE HAVE POINTED OUT THE INACCURACY AND MISCHIEVOUSNESS OF THE ARTICLE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CHANCELLOR AND WILL BE USED TO ANSWER ANY INQUIRIES THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD RECEIVE ABOUT THE ARTICLE. TO DATE, THE FEDERAL PRESS OFFICE HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY INQUIRIES.

2. THE EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO USE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN YOUR TELEGRAM TO ANSWER INQUIRIES. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY INQUIRIES ABOUT THE ARTICLE AS YET.

3. WE HAVE GONE OVER THE DISTORTIONS AND INACCURACIES IN THE "SPIEGEL" ARTICLE WITH SPD INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY DINGELS. DINGELS SAID THAT HE HAD THOUGHT

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THE ARTICLE INACCURATE WHEN HE READ IT AND BELIEVED IT

WAS A REHASH OF RUMORS THAT HAD APPEARED IN THE
AMERICAN PRESS SOME WEEKS AGO. DINGELS COMMENTED THAT
HE COULD NOT SWEAR THAT "SPIEGEL" HAD NOT SPOKEN TO
ANYONE IN SPD HEADQUARTERS, BUT THAT THE QUOTATIONS
ATTRIBUTED TO BRANDT DID NOT SEEM CONSISTENT WITH THE
SPD CHAIRMAN'S PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER. DINGELS
AGREED THAT THE DISTORTIONS IN THE ARTICLE WERE A
TAWDRY BUSINESS AND SAID THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THE
MATTER WITH THE SPD CHAIRMAN WHEN BRANDT RETURNS TO
BONN.
HILLENBRAND

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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